(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the reasons for "collapse" of the talks in July, 2008;

(c) whether he chose to make an announcement during his recent visit in Washington (DC) about resolution of the impasse achieved by India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the points hitherto put up by Government halting further progress of the WTO negotiation have since been addressed by the USA to India's satisfaction; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) At the mini-Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held in July 2008, Ministers were amenable to moving towards an agreement on several complex issues in both Agriculture and Non-agricultural Market Access (NAMA), provided other issues of concern to them were resolved to their satisfaction. However, many issues either could not be discussed at all or agreement could not be reached on account of persisting differences. While many of these were issues critical to developing countries, several were developed country concerns. In the end, however, the focus was almost entirely on the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) for developing countries. Several proposals were considered during the Ministerial discussions regarding the trigger that would allow developing countries to use the SSM to breach Uruguay Round bound rates. However, all attempts to find a solution that took the concerns of both the US and the developing countries on board, failed and the Ministerial talks had to be halted.

(c) and (d) At meetings at Washington D.C. in June 2009, it was emphasized that India strongly favoured a rule-based multilateral trade regime that was fair and equitable. It was important to address the core concerns of the Round, which are the development needs of developing countries. It was pointed out that at the July mini-Ministerial Meeting, there had been a lack of convergence on several issues of concern to both developed and developing countries. It was further stated that it was necessary to energize the process of negotiations on the basis of the two texts circulated in December by the chairs of the Agriculture and NAMA Negotiating groups.

(e) and (f) These issues will be discussed when the negotiations resume formally at the WTO.

Safeguard of interests of farm sector in WTO talks

437. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is initiating WTO talks held earlier under the Doha round of multilateral talks to expedite the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether appropriate safeguards are being considered to protect the Indian interest primarily in agriculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Multilateral negotiations under the Doha Round have not yet resumed formally at the World Trade Organization. At major international meetings held in the recent past where the Doha Round was discussed, India expressed support for the early resumption of negotiations, as a fair and equitable, rule-based multilateral trade regime best serves the needs of developing countries.

(c) and (d) The principal aim of India's negotiating strategy in the agriculture negotiations has been to protect the interests of farmers particularly with regard to their food and livelihood security. Substantial and effective reductions in domestic support and customs tariffs by developed countries, while enabling developing countries to protect and promote the interests of their low income and resource poor farmers, is a key priority for India and other developing countries in the agriculture negotiations. The flexibilities available to developing countries including, *inter alia*, lower tariff cuts than developed countries, self-designation of Special Products (SPs) which will have more flexible tariff reduction commitments than other products and the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) to safeguard the interests of farmers in the event of surges in import volumes or a fall in prices would be utilized by India for protecting low income and resource poor farmers of the country.

Employment Generation through IEM, LOI and FDI

438. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the period 2005-2006 to 2008-09 more than 62 lakhs of persons had been proposed to be employed through Industrial Entrepreneur's Memorandum (IEM) and Letters of Intent (LOIs);

(b) whether employment generation was a part of conditionalities for investment through Industrial Entrepreneur's Memorandum(IEM), Letter of Intent (LOIs) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI); and

(c) if so, how many persons have so far been employed during 2005-2006 to 2008-2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Employment generation is not a conditionality at the time of filing Industrial Entrepreneur's Memorandum (IEM), Letter of Intent (LoI) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

(c) Information regarding actual investment and number of persons employed is not maintained centrally.